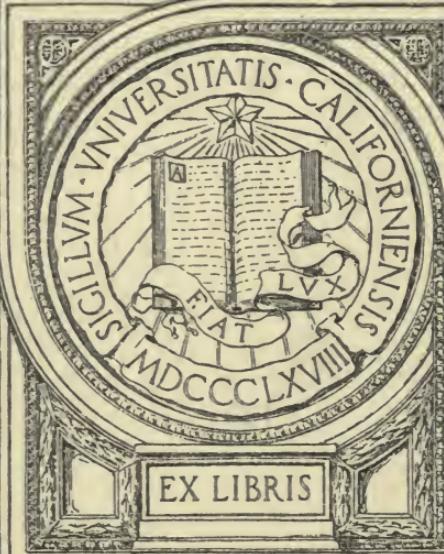


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REPORT

ON THE

COMMITTEE ON STATE UNIVERSITY

TO WHOM WAS REFERRED

MEMORIAL OF THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

OF

SAN FRANCISCO.

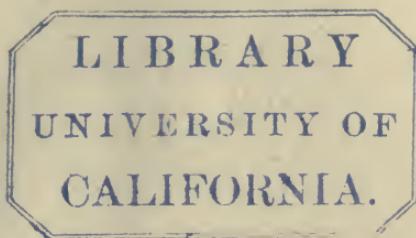
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1870.



R E P O R T

OF THE

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R E P O R T.

SENATE CHAMBER, February 10th, 1870.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Committee on the State University, to whom was referred the memorial of the Mechanics' Institute of the City of San Francisco, praying that the Colleges of Mines, Agriculture, Engineering and Mechanical Arts connected with the University of California, and now located at Berkeley, may be established in the City of San Francisco, have had the same under consideration, and now respectfully report:

That the University was located at Berkeley by a most competent and intelligent Board of Commissioners, after many months of careful examination and investigation, and such location was subsequently approved and ratified by the Legislature of the State;

That by reason of such location, and as a condition thereof, one hundred and sixty acres of land was given to the State, now worth nearly or quite two hundred thousand dollars, and the State accepted the same, and pledged its faith for the fulfilment of such conditions;

That in full reliance upon the fulfilment of the said conditions by the State, the College of California has transferred its students to the University, and prepared to, if it has not already disincorporated and gone out of existence;

That citizens of the State, acting upon the faith thus pledged, and desiring to secure the educational and other advantages that will attach to the University, have purchased homesteads in its immediate vicinity, at prices largely increased by reason thereof, and that the sums so invested are much more than half a million of dollars;

That a railroad has been completed nearly half way from Oakland to the University grounds, and that the residue will be constructed before the building can be ready for use; that the same has been undertaken solely to provide the means of speedy and easy access to the University, and but for its location there, would not have been commenced;

That nearly or quite fifty thousand dollars of the funds of the University have been expended in procuring additional and necessary land, in securing a perpetual and abundant supply of water, in planting trees, making roads, laying foundations and preparing to erect the necessary buildings for the University;

That an area of more than five thousand acres of land has been advanced in market value, more than one hundred dollars per acre, and some of it more than five hundred dollars per acre, by reason of the location of the University, and that much more than one million dollars has thus been added to the available value of property of citizens of the State;

That one hundred and fifty thousand acres of land, donated by the General Government for the establishment of an Agricultural College, have been transferred to and now form a very large part of the endowment of the University; that said lands are of the value of half a million of dollars and upwards, and that the condition upon which they were given requires a large farm, as an indispensable adjunct to the University.

If the University should now be removed from Berkeley, or be so weakened by division as to greatly impair its usefulness, these large donations would either revert to the donors or be held by technical legalities, in defiance of equitable or moral right; and the large sums invested on the faith of the action of the State, or added to the value of the adjacent property by the general confidence in its integrity, would be wholly lost.

Your committee are therefore forced to the conclusion that the location of the University at Berkeley has become a matter of public faith, that cannot be altered or interfered with without dishonor; that to attempt to locate one portion of the University there and another in San Francisco would be to render each division worthless; that a much larger Faculty would be required; that the students attending one portion of the University would be deprived of the benefit of the other part; that library and cabinets must be doubled, or each be wholly incomplete; that the government of the University would be kept vibrating between the two divisions, or else give up its functions and leave each to take care of itself; that unity of system and concert of action would thus be rendered impossible, and the influence, efficacy and power of the University for good would be greatly weakened, if not entirely destroyed.

Your committee have looked in vain to the arguments of the memorial for answers to these grave objections. They have not been led by their experience in life to expect that mechanics and artisans engaged in the daily and arduous labors of their respective callings are to furnish the students of the University, nor do they suppose that it is the intention of the people of the State to found only, or chiefly, an "evening school." When the classes referred to in the memorial appreciate and seek the knowledge that the University will offer them, they will find their highest improvement in withdrawing for a time from the noise and turmoil of the great city, and giving up their whole minds to the object they have in view, in the quiet seclusion of Berkeley.

The committee are compelled to remember that mechanics and artisans are not to be the *only* students of the University. To make the change desired, on their account, would be to expose the large number of young men that are the most likely to seek education in the University to all the temptations and dangers of a great city. Prudent fathers would hesitate before they would subject their sons to such hazards, and it might well be that for every one that would make a convenience of the University for their spare hours, if the removal was made, ten who would have sought it for thorough education would be kept away. Increased expense and greater exposure would attend upon every step

of those who should be removed with it to the hurry and bustle of the great city.

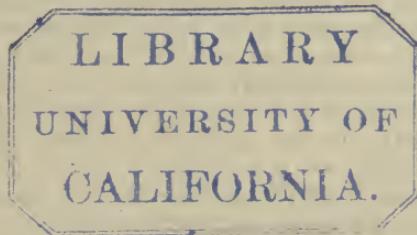
In reference to the department of agriculture, the incongruity of the proposed change is too obvious to require comment.

The committee, while they disclaim all reflections upon the motives of the memorialists, cannot avoid calling attention to the injury that is done to the University by efforts to unsettle its location. More than any other interest of the State, it requires to be left to take root where it has been planted. It will need all its strength for its own growth and development, without being paralyzed or weakened by any effort to tear it up, at every suggestion of individual preference or local selfishness. Its roots must strike deep, and spread wide, if the coming generations, for whom we work, are to find in its shades the academic groves where science, in its best development, shall walk hand in hand with true art; where philosophy shall teach, even as it learns, its ever-advancing lessons; and where, for the first time on earth, a great State shall offer to each of its citizens the highest and noblest education, as free as the water they drink or the air they breathe.

Believing that the time has come when the best interests of the University and of the State require that this question should be put forever at rest, the committee have thought it their duty to thus investigate the whole matter, and to recommend the passage of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the location of the State University at Berkeley was made for such consideration, and under such circumstances, that the interest and the honor of the State alike forbid its removal.

GWIN, Chairman.



MEMORIAL.

WHEREAS, In the Act creating an Agricultural, Mining and Mechanical Arts College, and that creating and endowing the University of California, and establishing therein the several Colleges of Mines, Agriculture, Engineering and the Mechanical Arts, the Legislature have wisely recognized the importance to the people of this State of the special cultivation and development of those branches of learning which are particularly connected with the useful arts, and affect most closely the interests of mechanics and the industrial classes generally; and whereas, in order that the University should attain any considerable degree of usefulness to those classes, and thus realize the beneficent intentions of the Legislature in their behalf, it is indispensable that those Colleges should be located in some centre of population and industry, where the parties to be benefited by special and partial courses of instruction may have access to the library, museum and laboratory of the University, and an opportunity to attend its courses of lectures, without thereby abandoning their ordinary and necessary daily pursuits;

Resolved, That the establishment of the Colleges of applied science above referred to, at Berkeley, will operate to exclude from their benefits all persons except the very small number of youths whose parents have the means and inclination to incur the heavy expenditure incident to a residence in that immediate vicinity; and as such persons may naturally be expected to give preference to the academic, or merely literary course of studies, the Colleges of applied science, if established at Berkeley, will become practically useless to the public.

Resolved, That the City of San Francisco embraces within its population a larger body of mechanics and working people than any locality in the State, while at the same time, in its numerous workshops, factories, etc., it offers the best opportunity for students to witness the practical application of scientific instruction to the various pursuits of industry, for which reason we are of opinion that the Colleges of applied science in the University of California should be located in some central part of the city.

Resolved, That we respectfully memorialize the Legislature to pass an Act locating the Colleges of Mines, Agriculture, Civil and Mechanical Engineering and Mechanical Arts in this city, and devoting (with the consent of the city authorities) one of the public squares for the erection of the necessary buildings therefor.

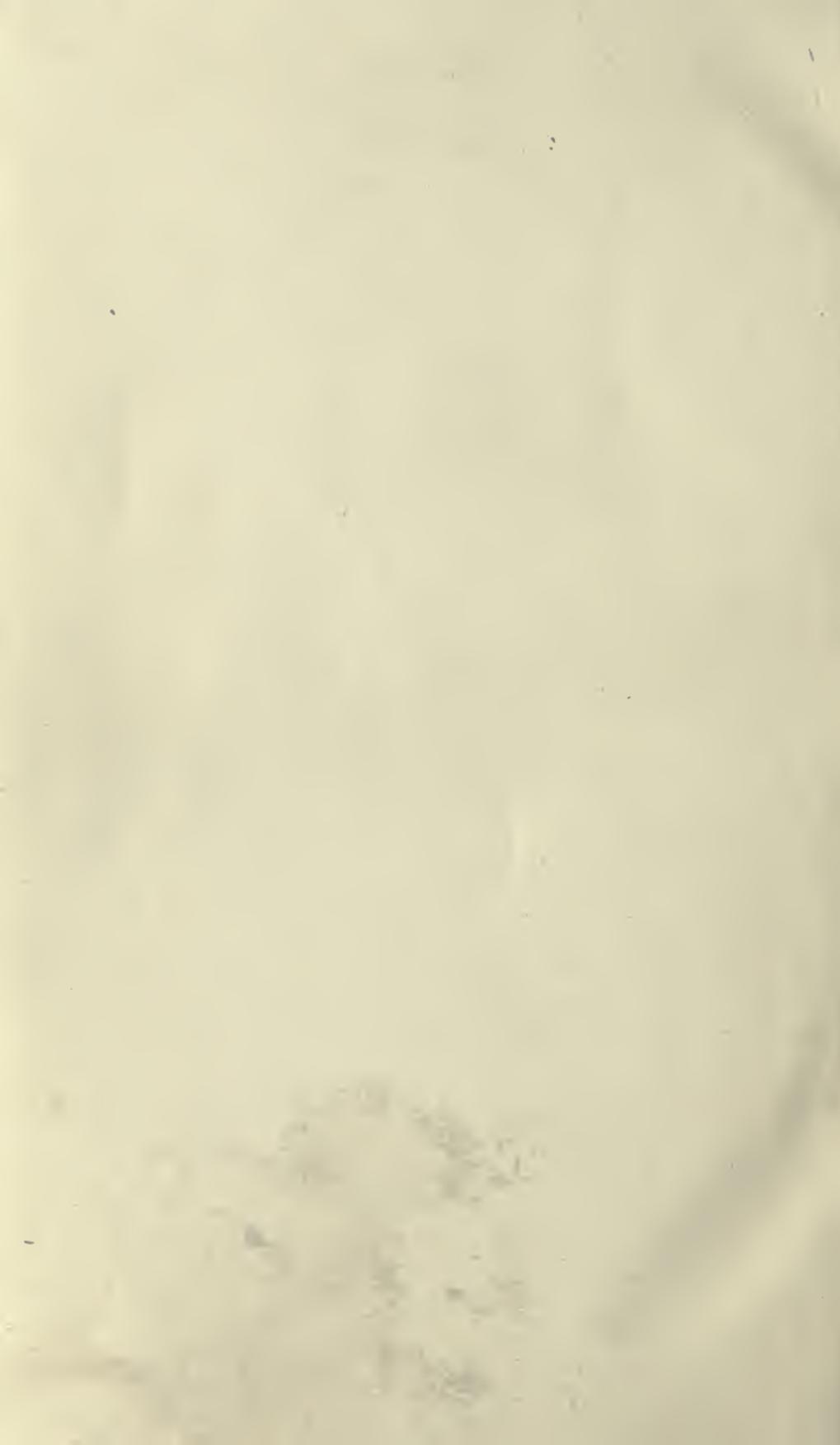
THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE,
Per A. S HALLIDIE, President.

San Francisco, January 25th, 1870.

The above memorial was unanimously adopted at the special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute, January twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and seventy, and referred to the President for presentation.

[SEAL.]

GEO. PARDY, Secretary.





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